

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8343
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CAIRO 13580

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP (DERWINSKI EDWARD J) EG
SUBJ: CODEL DERWINSKI -- TALK WITH PRESIDENT SADAT

SUMMARY: IN 45 MINUTE MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN DERWINSKI AND
AMBASSADOR AUGUST 14, PRESIDENT SADAT DESCRIBED SECRETARY
VANCE'S TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST AS FRUITFUL. SADAT SAID SECRETARY
PAVED THE WAY FOR FONMIN MEETINGS AT UN IN SEPTEMBER.
"WORKING GROUP" PROPOSAL WAS NEVER INTENDED AS MEANS TO EVADE
GENEVA, BUT RATHER TO ASSURE THAT GENEVA IS PROPERLY PREPARED
FOR. OCTOBER DATE IS NOT IMPORTANT.

SADAT IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT SOVIET-LIBYAN INTEN-
TIONS IN AFRICA. EGYPT HAS SENT TONS OF ARMS TO SOMALIA, ERITREA,
AND CHAD WHILE USG HAS TEMPORIZED IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO
ABOVE COUNTRIES AND TO EGYPT. QADHAFI HAD TO BE HIT AND WILL
BE HIT AGAIN. SOVIETS ARE AIRLIFTING ARMS TO LIBYA. CASTRO
SECRETLY ARRIVED IN ALGIERS TWO DAYS AGO AND INTENDES TO GO
ON TO LIBYA. END SUMMARY

1. DERWINSKI OPENED BY SAYING THAT SINCE SADAT'S TRIP TO
WASHINGTON, THINGS HAVE DEVELOPED REASONABLY WELL. SADAT
AGREED VANC'S JUST-CONCLUDED TRIP WAS VERY FRUITFUL
DESPITE ALL PROPAGANDA TO THE CONTRARY. VANCE NEVER
INTENDED TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENTS DURING THIS TRIP BUT
RATHER WANTED TO GATHER POINTS OF VIEW FROM ALL SIDES.
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BY THE TIME THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET AT THE UN IN
SEPTEMBER (A SADAT PROPOSAL), SOMETHING MORE TANGIBLE
WILL HAVE BEEN FORMULATED. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE
PARTIES NOT GO TO GENEVA INADEQUATELY PREPARED. THE
OCTOBER DATE IS NOT IMPORTANT. PREPARATION IS IMPOR-
TANT. ADEQUATE PREPARATION WAS THE ENTIRE REASON FOR
THE "WORKING GROUP" PROPOSAL. IT WAS NEVER INTENDED

AS A MEANS TO EVADE GENEVA.

2. DERWINSKI NOTED HE HAD JUST COME FROM TALKS IN SYRIA AND JORDAN. THE JORDANIANS, HE INDICATED, ARE OPTIMISTIC AS SADAT, BUT THE SYRIANS ARE SKEPTICAL. SADAT REMARKED THAT THE SYRIANS ARE ALWAYS SKEPTICAL, BUT IN THE END THEY COME AROUND.

3. DERWINSKI INQUIRED WHETHER SADAT BELIEVED BEGIN WILL BE MORE FLEXIBLE AFTER HE SOLIDIFIES HIS HOLD ON GOVERNMENT. SADAT RESPONDED THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO BEING FLEXIBLE. EGYPT WILL AGREE TO ANY GUARANTEES, AMERICAN OR UNITED NATIONS. BOTH EGYPT AND ISRAEL ARE IN DIFFICULT ECONOMIC STRAITS. THERE MUST BE FLEXIBILITY.

4. SADAT STRESSED THAT U.S. HOLDS 99 PERCENT OF THE CARS FOR RESOLVING THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. DURING FAHMY'S RECENT TRIP TO MOSCOW, BREZHNEV DISAGREED THAT U.S. HAD SO EXCLUSIVE ROLE, BUT SOVIETS ARE WRONG. WITHOUT AMERICAN ASSISTANCE, THE ISRAELIS CANNOT STAND; AND THE ISRAELIS TRUST NO ONE ELSE. EGYPT DOES NOT ASK U.S. TO FORGO OUR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL. BUT MERELY TO CAUSE ISRAEL TO COME TO SENSE. NOW IT HAS BECOME OBVIOUS WHO IS PUTTING OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF PEACE AND WHO IS READY FOR PEACE.

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5. DERWINSKI NOTED THAT IN A RECENT MEETING WITH DR. KISSINGER, KISSINGER SAID THAT VANCE WAS ON THE RIGHT COURSE; THAT THE MORE UNDERSTANDING THAT IS DEVELOPED PRIOR TO GENEVA, THE MORE LIKELY GENEVA WILL SUCCEED, AND THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD DO EVERYTHING TO PREVENT SUCCESS OF GENEVA. SADAT AGREED.

6. DERWINSKI NOTED THAT THE SOVIETS ARE BECOMING MORE DEEPLY IMPLICATED IN ETHIOPIA IN AN ATTEMPT TO DOMINATE THE AREA. SADAT RECALLED THAT IN APRIL HE HAD WARNED BOTH PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE CONGRESS ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS IN AFRICA. HE WAS THEN DISMAYED AT AMERICAN RELUCTANCE TO ASSIST ZAIRE IN THE FACE OF SOVIET-ANGOLAN DEPREDATIONS AND HE HAD WARNED THAT ETH8908- WOULD BE THE NEXT PROBLEM AREA. EGYPT HAS SUPPORTED BOTH SOMAILA AND ERITREA, AND NOW MOST OF OGADEN AND ETITREA HAVE BEEN FREED. THUS HAS EGYPT ASKED FOR ARMS FROM U.S. -- NOT FOR AMERICAN SOLDIERS, BUT MERELY FOR ARMS FOR DEFENSE AGAINST THE SOVIETS. IT IS IRONIC THAT A POOR COUNTRY LIKE EGYPT SHOULD BE SENDING TONS OF ARMS TO SOMALIA, ERITREA, AND CHAD, WHEREAS U.S. ONLY OFFERS GOOD WORDS.

7. DERWINSKI CONCURRED THAT CONGRESS HAS NOT BEEN HELPFUL IN PROVIDING ARMS. HE WAS CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT ANY ARMS REQUEST THAT CARTER SENDS TO CONGRESS REGARDING EGYPT AND SUDAN WILL BE APPROVED.

8. SADAT SAID THAT THE GREATEST INSIGATOR OF DISORDER IN FARICA IS LIBYA, AIDED BY RUSSIA. A GREAT AIRLIFT OF ARMS IS TAKING PLACE NOW TO LIBYA, FOLLOWING THE BLOW SADAT RECENTLY DEALT TO QADHAFI. QADHAFI WAS SENDING ARMS TO ETHIOPIA AND TO NORTHERN CHAD; HE HAD TO BE HIT. SADAT TOLD CARTER HE WOULD HIT LIBYA, AND HE DID. SADAT WILL HIT QADHAFI AGAIN.

9. DERWINSKI ASKED WHY QADHAFI IS SUCH A WILLING TOOL
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OF THE SOVIETS. SADAT REPLIED THAT QADHAFI IS A LUNATIC-- SADLY, A LUNATIC WITH A CHECKBOOK. BUT ALL HIS BILLIONS DO NOT MAKE QADHAFI A LEADER. HE IS ABSOLUTELY WITHOUT WEIGHT IN THE ARAB WORLD. WHEN SADAT HIT QADHAFI, THE ARAB LEADERS WELCOMED IT, EVEN WHILE THEY TRIED TO CALM THE ALTERCATION.

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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10. DERWINSKI ASKED WHETHER THE SOVIETS HAVE YET SENT CUBAN TECHNICIANS TO LIBYA. SADAT REPLIED THAT WHEN HIS COMMANDOS DESTROYED BASES IN LIBYA, THEY CAME BACK WITH REPORTS THAT CUBANS WERE THERE. TWO DAYS AGO CASTRO

SECRETLY ARRIVED IN ALGERIA, AND SADAT IS INFORMED THAT CASTRO INTENDS TO VISIT LIBYA. BOUMEDIENNA TOLD SADAT AT THE TIME OF THE RECONCILIATION EFFORT THAT CASTRO HAD TOLD HIM HE WOULD NOT SEND UNITS TO LIBYA. HOWEVER, IN FACT, THERE ARE A FEW HUNDRED CUBANS IN LIBYA, SOME AT TOBRUK CLOSE BY THE EGYPTIAN BORDER.

11. DERWINSKI ASKED IF THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT IN ISRAEL HAD BASICALLY CHANGED THE SITUATION. NO, SAID SADAT. KING HUSSEIN AND ASSAD HAD WRAPPED THEMSELVES IN PESSIMISM, BUT IN FACT THE NEW ISRAELI REGIME IS NO DIFFERENT FROM THE PREVIOUS ONE. ISRAELIS ARE ALL THE SAME ON THE ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE.

12. AMB INQUIRED WHAT IS TO HAPPEN AS A RESULT OF THE RE-EVALUATION OF EGYPTIAN POLICY FOLLOWING THE VANCE VISIT, ANNOUNCED IN THE EGYPTIAN PRESS. SADAT DID NOT ANSWER THE QUESTION DIRECTLY. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE TRUSTS PRESIDENT CARTER AND REMAINS OPTIMISTIC. NOW THERE IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE. NEVER BEFORE HAS THERE BEEN A MOMENT WHEN THE ARABS ARE SO RECEPTIVE
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TO PEACE.

13. SADAT STATED THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS HAS CAUSED PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE ARABS CONSIDERABLE TROUBLE. DERWINSKI SAID HE BELIEVED THAT CONGRESS WOULD NOW ACT MORE RESPONSIBLY AND THAT CONGRESS IS BEGINNING TO REALIZE IT HAS BECOME OVERINVOLVED IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE ASSURED SADAT THAT IN THE MONTHS AHEAD PRESIDENT CARTER WILL RECEIVE THE SUPPORT FROM CONGRESS THAT HE NEEDS.

14. MESSAGE CLEARED WITH CODEL.
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